

# LESOTHO METEOROLOGICAL SERVICES

(LEKALA LA TSA BOLEPI)



## Ten-Day Agrometeorological Bulletin

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*...dedicated to the agricultural community  
... aimed at harmonizing agricultural activities with weather and climate*

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### Highlights

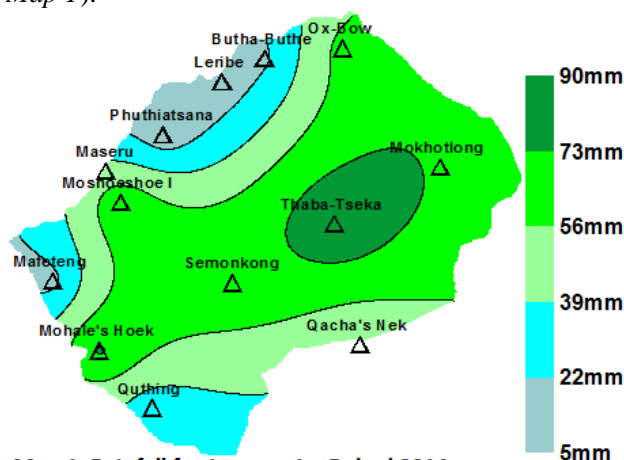
- ❑ Some places experienced good rains during the dekad
- ❑ Cumulative rainfall improving
- ❑ Normal to above normal mean temperatures experienced in most places.
- ❑ Weeding in progress.

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## RAINFALL SITUATION

Most parts of the country recorded good rains during the first dekad of January 2014. A distribution of below normal, normal and above normal dekadal rainfall was throughout the country. Botha-Bothe, Mafeteng and Phuthiatsana recorded below normal rainfall, while Maseru, Qacha's Nek and Quthing recorded normal rainfall and the rest of the stations recorded above normal rainfall. The highest and lowest amounts were respectively recorded at Thaba-Tseka (87.2mm) and Phuthiatsana (10.3mm - see Map 1).

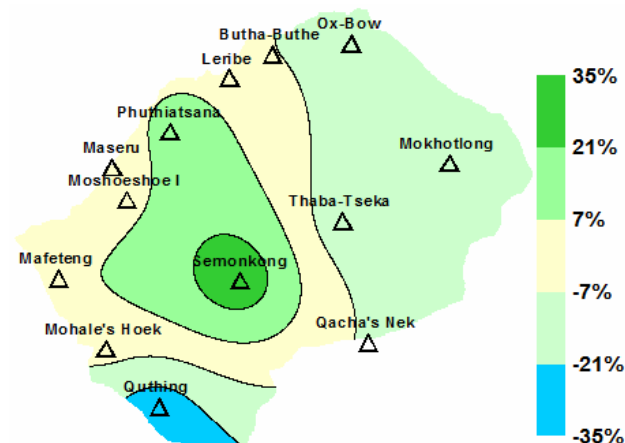


Map 1: Rainfall for January 1st Dekad 2014

Rain days ranged from two (Botha-Bothe and Mafeteng) to nine days (Mokhotlong).

### Cumulative Percentage Rainfall Departure from Normal

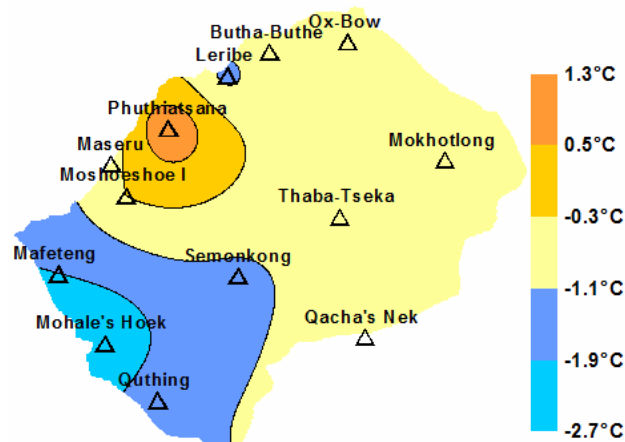
Cumulative rainfall since the first dekad of September is normal in most places, Semonkong is the only place with above normal percentage rainfall departure from normal, while Qacha's Nek and Thaba-Tseka recorded below normal percentage rainfall departure from normal. Highest and lowest cumulative rainfall amounts were recorded at Semonkong and Thaba-Tseka at 391.2mm and 233.4mm respectively (see Figures 1 & 2).



Map 2: Cumulative Rainfall % Departure from Normal

## TEMPERATURE

Temperatures remained normal to above normal during the first dekad. However, Phuthiatsana recorded above deviation temperature deviation of -1.3°C while decadal minimum mean temperatures deviations was recorded at Mohale's Hoek at -2.7°C.

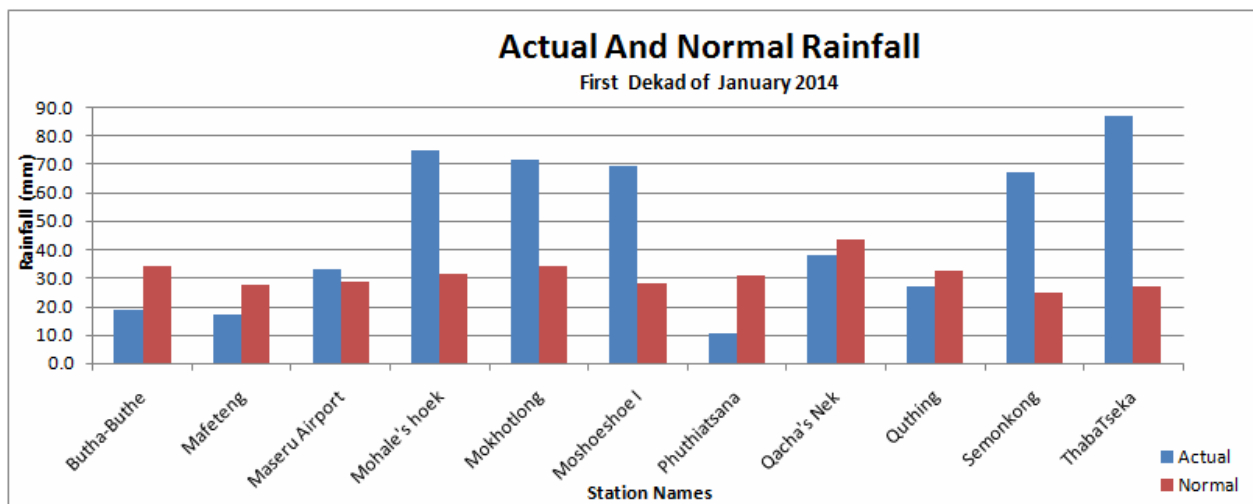


Map 3: Dekadal Mean Temperature Deviation from Normal

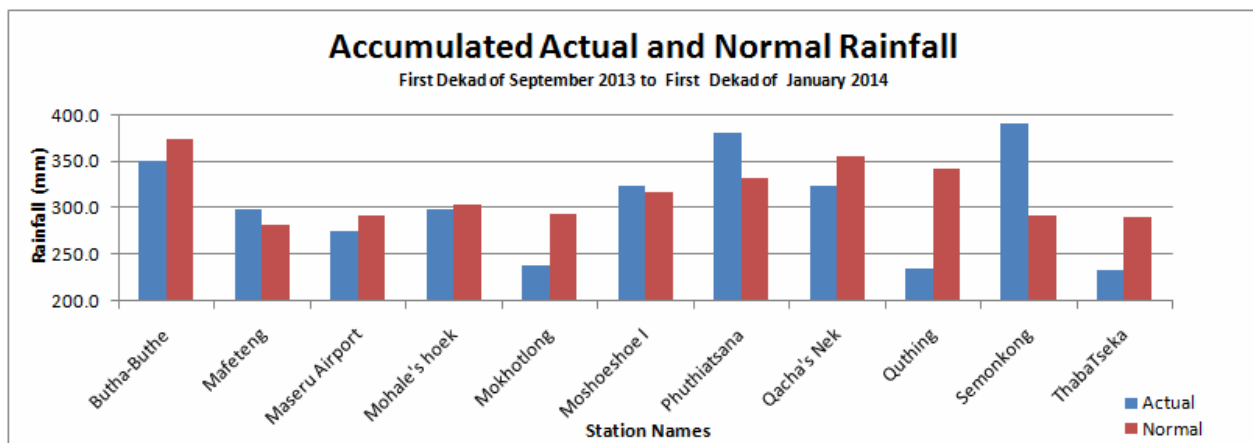
## CROP STAGE AND CONDITIONS

Most of the maize was at vegetative stage. Weeding was in progress at most parts of the country and farmers countrywide.

Pastures and livestock are generally improving.



**Figure 1**



**Figure 2**